

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6956
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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TAGS: PERP, IV, FR
SUBJECT: GISCARD'S VISIT TO IVORY COAST--FINAL COMMUNIQUE
AND PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: ABIDJAN 417

SUMMARY: DEPARTING FROM YAMOUSSOUKRO JANUARY 15, GISCARD
COMPLETED A VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO IVORY COAST.
ALREADY STRONG POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN RE-ENFORCED. JOINT COMMUNIQUE (FULL
TEXT BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES) TOUCHED ON FRANCO-
IVORIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND ON A NUMBER OF INTER-
NATIONAL ISSUES SUCH AS THE HORN, SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE
MIDDLE EAST, AND THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. COMMUNIQUE ALSO
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MENTIONED PRESIDENT CARTER'S FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO GISCARD'S
PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL FUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA,
AS WELL AS GISCARD'S PROPOSAL FOR AN AFRICAN-EUROPEAN SOLID-
ARITY PACT. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, GISCARD ANSWERED
QUESTIONS ON ISSUES ABOVE AND, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION
ON POSSIBLE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN AN AFRICAN-EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY PACT, STATED SUCH A PACT WOULD BE LIMITED TO

EUROPE AND AFRICA. END SUMMARY

1. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ADDRESSED THREE BROAD AREAS: FRANCO-IVORIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AFRICAN PROBLEMS, AND OTHER IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. WITH RESPECT TO BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MENTION IS MADE OF TWO SPECIFIC AREAS FOR FRENCH ASSISTANCE: EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION OF IVORIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION; AND ASSISTANCE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF VESSELS FOR THE IVORIAN MERCHANT MARINE. FRENCH COOPERANTS WERE SINGLED OUT FOR PRAISE AND APPRECIATION, ESPECIALLY THOSE INVOLVED IN EDUCATION.

2. AFRICAN PROBLEMS: COMMUNIQUE STATES THERE IS AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS. FRENCH POLICY IS BASED ON ABSOLUTE RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF STATES; ON THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES TO SECURITY AND TO THE POLITICS OF THEIR CHOICE; AND ON THE PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE. BOTH CHIEFS OF STATE HAVE THE CONVICTION THAT AFRICA MUST BE SHELTERED FROM FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY AND BY AFRICANS THEMSELVES. IN THIS PERSPECTIVE, THE TWO EXPRESS STRONG APPREHENSION OVER THE SITUATION IN THE HORN, DESIRE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND AN END TO FOREIGN INTERVENTIONS.

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3. WITH RESPECT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, BOTH SIDES RE-AFFIRM THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE TO INDEPENDENCE AND THE NEED TO ASSOCIATE ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED WITH A PROCESS THAT LEADS TO MAJORITY RULE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE; SUPPORT RAPID ACCESSION TO INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA AND PRAISE THE ROLE OF THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS; CONDEMN APARTHEID AND STATE IT CAN BE ELIMINATED BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

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4. FINALLY, PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT A PROCESS OF RAPPROCHEMENT OBTAIN BETWEEN THE COMOROS AND FRANCE THAT WOULD PRESERVE THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES.

5. MIDDLE EAST: BOTH CHIEFS OF STATE PRAISE SADAT'S INITIATIVE AND HOPE "A JUST, DESIRABLE, AND COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED, BASED ON THE RETREAT ("RETRAITZL OF ISRAEL FROM THE TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967, THE RECOGNITION OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS AND ON THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES OF THE REGION, INCLUDING ISRAEL, TO LIVE IN PEACE WITHIN SECURE, RECOGNIZED, AND GUARANTEED FRONTIERS."

6. NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE: BOTH ARE CONVINCED OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEED TO OPEN UP THE MARKETS OF THE RICH COUNTRIES TO THE FINISHED AND SEMI-FINISHED PRODUCTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; THE NEED TO STABILIZE THE EXPORT REVENUES OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES; AND EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT FOR AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON A COMMON FUND FOR STABILIZING PRICES OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS.

7. THE COMMUNIQUE MENTIONS THAT GISCARD "INFORMED PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY OF THE FAVORABLE OPINION EXPRESSED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. ON THE PLAN FOR CREATING A SPECIAL FUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA."

8. FINALLY, THE COMMUNIQUE STATES BOTH CHIEFS OF STATE

AGREE "TO CONTACT INTERESTED CHIEFS OF STATE WITH A VIEW TO INITIATING THE PROCESS WHICH WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO BRING INTO EXISTENCE A SOLIDARITY PACT BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE." THE FRENCH AND IVORIAN MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE TO DEVELOP CONCRETE PROPOSITIONS THAT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THEIR AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS.

9. GISCARD'S PRESS CONFERENCE: QUESTIONED ON HIS PROPOSAL FOR AN AFRICAN-EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY PACT, GISCARD STATED IT WOULD BE LIMITED TO EUROPE AND AFRICA (THEREFORE IT WOULD NOT INCLUDE THE U.S.) AND WOULD INCLUDE ALL COUNTRIES IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT WHERE MAJORITY RULE OBTAINS AND WHERE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS NOT THE ESTABLISHED POLICY. MOREOVER, THE PACT COULD HAVE, LIKE THE HELSINKI ACCORDS, THREE BASKETS: SECURITY AND THE STABILIZATION OF FRONTIERS; POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION; AND CULTURAL COOPERATION AND ASSOCIATION BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE.

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10. VOA CORRESPONDENT NOTED HE HAD NOT HEARD GISCARD DURING HIS VISIT TO IVORY COAST RE-AFFIRM FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO RESPOND TO APPEALS FROM ITS FRIENDS IN DANGER. WAS THIS BECAUSE THE FRENCH ATTITUDE HAD CHANGED? WAS IT AN OMISSION? OR HAD IT SIMPLY NOT BEEN NECESSARY TO RAISE THE SUBJECT? GISCARD RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS: "I WILL REPEAT, AS REGARDS THE COMMITMENTS OF FRANCE, EVERY ONE KNOWS THAT FRANCE ALWAYS RESPECTS THE COMMITMENTS SHE HAS MADE."

11. TO THE BEAT OF TAM-TAMS GISCARD BOARDED HIS PLANE (THIS TIME A FRENCH DC-8) AND, UNDOUBTEDLY SATISFIED, DEPARTED IVORY COAST FOR THE COLDER CLIMES OF PARIS.

12. EMBASSY ANALYSIS FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.
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